

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 06818 061655Z

42

ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8859

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 6818

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, CG (FONMIN)

SUBJECT: UMBA VISIT

REF: STATE 168689 KINSHASA 6738

1. RE PARA 4 STATE REFTL, THE USUALLY LOQUACIOUS UMBA HAS BEEN EVASIVE. WHEN INFORMING HIM OF APPOINTMENT WITH THE SECRETARY, CHARGE TRIED TO ELICIT SUBJECTS UMBA WISHED TO DISCUSS BUT LAST INDICATED HE BEARER OF IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MOBUTU. SEPARATE EFFORT BY A/DCM WITH BASELE ALSO DREW BLANK AFTER BASELE CONSULTED WITH UMBA. MBEKA, WE ARE TOLD, DOES KNOW SUBJECTS AND HAS AUTHORITY TO INFORM DEPARTMENT.

2. GIVEN MOBUTU'S PREOCCUPATION WITH ANGOLA AND HIS VIGOROUS ATTEMPTS TO PROMOTE HOLDEN ROBERTO (FNLA) AND SIDETRACK NETO (MPLA), WE ASSUME THIS WILL BE PRINCIPAL TOPIC (SEE KINSHASA 6290). MOBUTU MAY WANT TO KNOW WHAT US IS PREPARED TO DO TO HELP ASSURE THAT POWER IN ANGOLA IS TRANSFERRED TO A REGIME FRIENDLY TO ZAIRE. HE MAY COUCH HIS APPROACH IN TERMS OF AN OFFER TO COLLABORATE WITH US IN EFFORT TO RESOLVE DECOLONIZATION ISSUE IN NEIGHBORING PORTUGUESE AFRICA WHILE BLOCKING COMMUNIST (I.E., SOVIET) INFLUENCE THERE.

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PAGE 02 KINSHA 06818 061655Z

3. UMBA MAY ALSO RAISE SUBJECT OF SHRINKING AID TO

ZAIRE (BASELE HAS RECENTLY BEEN GATHERING STATISTICS ON FOREIGN AID PROGRAMS HERE.) UMBA ON ONE OCCASSION BERATED CHARGE ON ALLEGED LOW NUMBER OF EXCHANGE GRANTS ACCORDED ZAIRES IN COMPARISON WITH NIGERIA.

4. RE PARA 3 STATE REFTEL, UMBA IS A TECHNOCRAT WHO WHEN MINISTER OF MINES SEEMED WELL DISPOSED TOWARD US. HE IS FROM BAS ZAIRES AND WAS PROBABLY GIVEN CABINET LEVEL POST AS PART OF EFFORT TO BALANCE LARGE NUMBER OF KEY PERSONS IN REGIME FROM MOBUTUS HOME REGION. AS A NEWCOMER TO THE POLITICAL BUREAU HE IS PROBABLY PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO CHALK UP A SUCCESS IN WASHINGTON TO SHOW THAT MOBUTUS TRUST HAS BEEN WELL PLACED. UNFORTUNATELY, UMBA DOES NOT MAKE A POSITIVE IMPRESSION ON AMERICANS. HE COMES OVER AS DIDACTIC AND DISINGENUOUS. HOWEVER, HE DOES HAVE AN IMPORTANT JOB AND HE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN CHOSEN FOR HIS PRESENT MISSION UNLESS HE ENJOYED MOBUTUS CONFIDENCE.

5. RE PARA 1 STATE REFTEL, NEITHER OF TWO OFFICIALS IN FONMIN'S PARTY WHO WILL ACCOMPANY HIM IN CALL ON SECRETARY IS IMPORTANT FIGURE. BASELE WAS LITTLE KNOWN DIVISION CHIEF IN DEPTFONAFF'S DIRECTORATE FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WHEN NGUZA WAS FONMIN. HIS PROMOTION TO UMBA'S CABINET SUGGESTS HE HAS GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH FONMIN. WHEN UMBA CEASES TO BE FONMIN, BASELE WILL REVERT TO REGULAR JOB AS MIDDLE GRADE CAREER DIPLOMAT (COUNSELOR 2ND CLASS). HIS PRESENT JOB IS TO KEEP TRACK OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ZAIRES ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID AGREEMENTS. HE IS URBANE AND INTELLIGENT BUT NOT FORCEFUL. SPEAKS EXCELLENT FRENCH, NO ENGLISH. MATUNGULU IS A DEPUTY TO MOKOLO (CHIEF OF EXTERNAL SECURITY SERVICES IN PRESIDENT'S OFFICE). UMBA IS BELIEVED TO HAVE REQUESTED MOKOLO TO SEND HIM ALONG SO THAT PRESIDENT'S OFFICE CAN HAVE CONFIRMATION THROUGH ITS OWN CHANNELS OF HOW UMBA CARRIED OUT HIS MISSION IN WASHINGTON. MATUNGULU SPEAKS FAIR ENGLISH. NEWLIN

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